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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3636**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

P. Bentley

Serial No.: 10/061,047

Filed: January 29, 2002

For: STOWABLE TABLES

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Group Art Unit: 3636

Examiner: L. Cranmer

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GROUP 3600

January 20, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 38398/263504

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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed
November 13, 2003 in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendment

Kindly amend the claims so that they read consistent with the following listing:

1. (currently amended) A seat assembly comprising:
 - a. a backrest;
 - b. a member protruding rearward from the backrest so as to define a space therebetween; and
 - c. a table adapted to be stowed when not in use and to be deployed for use, the table ~~generally abutting~~ being connected to the member when stowed and ~~being remote~~ disconnected from the member when deployed.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) A seat assembly according to claim-2 1 in which the member is a bar connected to the backrest.
4. (original) A seat assembly according to claim 3 in which (i) the backrest is repositionable and (ii) the bar is connected to the backrest so that its position relative to the backrest remains fixed regardless of the position of the backrest.
5. (previously presented) A seat assembly comprising:
 - a. a backrest;

b. a table adapted (i) generally to abut the backrest when stowed and (ii) to extend therefrom when deployed; and

c. means, comprising (i) a spring and (ii) an arm communicating with the table and about which the spring is positioned, for biasing the table away from the backrest when the table is deployed.

6.-7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A seat assembly according to claim 5 in which the table defines a slot or bore in which the arm travels.

9. (original) A seat assembly according to claim 8 in which the arm has an opening receiving a rod, the rod defining an axis about which the table pivots.

10. (original) A seat assembly according to claim 9 in which the spring has two ends, one end abutting the table and the other end abutting the rod.

11. (original) A seat assembly comprising:

a. a frame;

b. a backrest connected directly or indirectly to the frame;

c. a stowable table adapted generally to abut the backrest when stowed and to extend therefrom when deployed;

- d. a pair of arms connected directly or indirectly to the frame;
 - e. a rod connecting the pair of arms;
 - f. first and second minor arms connecting the table to at least the rod;
- and
- g. at least one spring positioned about the first minor arm between the table and rod.

12. (original) A seat assembly according to claim 11 further comprising at least one additional spring positioned about the second minor arm between the table and rod.

13. (original) A seat assembly according to claim 12 in which the stowable table defines first and second bores or slots, with the first minor arm travelling in the first bore or slot and the second minor arm travelling in the second bore or slot.

14. (original) A seat assembly according to claim 13 further comprising a cover connected directly or indirectly to the backrest and overlapping at least a portion of the table when the table is stowed.

15. (previously presented) A seat assembly comprising:

- a. a backrest;

b. a stowable table adapted generally to abut the backrest when stowed and to extend therefrom when deployed, the table defining sides and first and second ends, the first end positioned above the second end when the table is stowed; and

c. a cover connected at least indirectly to the backrest so as to overlap at least part of the first end of the table when the table is stowed.

16. (original) A seat assembly according to claim 15 in which the cover is mounted to the backrest at a mounting point and pivots about the mounting point.

17. (previously presented) A seat assembly comprising:

a. a backrest having a width;

b. a stowable table adapted generally to abut the backrest when stowed and to extend therefrom when deployed; and

c. a cover spanning the width of and connected at least indirectly to the backrest so as to overlap at least part of the table when the table is stowed.

18. (original) A seat assembly according to claim 17 in which the cover is mounted to the backrest at two mounting points, the two mounting points defining an axis about which the cover pivots.

Response

Claims 1-5 and 8-18 are pending in the application prior to entry of the preceding amendments. The Examiner has allowed claims 5 and 8-18 and indicated that claims 2-4 would be allowable if appropriately rewritten. She has, however, finally rejected claim 1 as anticipated by German Patent Document No. 9304753.3.

Applicant does not concede the correctness of the Examiner's rejection. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, he proposes to rewrite claim 1 to include features of allowable claim 2, to cancel claim 2 to avoid redundancy, and to revise claim 3 to depend from claim 1 (rather than claim 2). Applicant believes these changes render the Examiner's rejection moot and requests both that the changes be entered and that claims 1 and 3-4 be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant requests that the Examiner allow claims 1 and 3-4 and that a patent containing these claims and allowed claims 5 and 8-18 issue in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



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